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October 1, 2010

Manucher Alemi, Ph.D., P.E.

Chief, Water Use and Efficiency Branch

Division of Statewide Integrated Water Management

Department of Water Resources

901 P Street

Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Chapter 5.2 Process Water Use Reporting for SBX7-7 – Comments

Dear Dr. Alemi:

This correspondence is being sent jointly on behalf of the California Business Properties Association (CBPA) and the California Building Industry Association (CBIA). CBPA represents almost 12,000 companies from the commercial-industrial-retail real estate industry as well as the California Chapters of National Association of Industrial and Office Parks (NAIOP), the International Council of Shopping Centers, and the Building Owners and Managers Association of California. .

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the DWR's most recent draft Chapter 5.2 Process Water Use Reporting for SBX7-7 dated September 24, 2010, and while we are disappointed that the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) has not invited us to participate in previous stakeholder committees we are hopeful this will be corrected as the process continues. Furthermore, we are concerned that it appears that all commercial properties are potentially being treated as the same when there are indeed significant differences between an office building use of water and a manufacturing facility.

We are uncertain as to why the process water exemption from the gross water use calculation would only be applicable to water service areas where an arbitrarily high amount, 15 percent, of the total water use is attributable to process water. With process water frequently being a significant expense to our industrial members, there is already a significant business motivation to be as water efficient as possible. Why isn't all process water exempted from the gross water use calculation? If DWR is going to assign a completely arbitrary threshold to the exemption of process water, why not start with a 5 percent threshold?

We would like to work with you to develop reasonable, implementable regulations that will avoid a disproportionate conservation burden on the commercial real estate community – or our water providers, while at the same time helping to achieve overall realistic statewide conservation goals.

We look forward to working with DWR and other stakeholders in the future and being more involved in the USC process. Should you have any questions regarding our enclosed information, please feel free to contact me at (916) 443-4676.

Sincerely,



Rex S. Hime, President and CEO
CBPA



Bob Raymer, Technical Director
CBIA

cc: Peter Brostrom
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